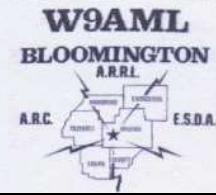


CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

Short CIRCuits



November 2007

From the President

Repeater

Latest status – Thanks to Floyd, W9EX, we now have a huge ex-patriot Caterpillar battery for emergency power and thanks to Glenn of Hill Radio it is being charged by a trickle charger. Our club has certainly benefited from the generosity of the community.

Eric, N9DOA, climbed the Cornbelt tower to redo the weatherproofing on the power divider. That was a long day and hard work. Aside from a glitch with the control link that Jim, WB9UWA, is working on the repeater is up-to-date.

Christmas Dinner

OK – At the September meeting we voted to do our dinner at Swingers. I have reserved “The Bays” room at Swingers for Thursday, December 13. That is a change from our original date, but Swingers had a scheduling conflict and I decided to go for the “good room” rather than using the game room for our dinner. It looks like an excellent meeting and should be a good evening.

October Meeting –

Floyd, W9EX, treated us to a recording of the actual CQD from the Titanic – sent a chill down my spine listening to that long dead fist buzzing out a 30 WPM distress call on raw spark. It is amazing how well the op sent given the circumstances.

I did a presentation on using Tram Lines to raise antennas. Thanks to my neighbor, Jim Finch, who took a few pictures of the event we had a

clear view of all the elements of a tram line lift. It is an easy, safe way to raise large antennas, but it takes a little more preparation than the usual winding the elements through the guy wires method.

November Meeting – We are invited to Roger Singley's “shack”– WQ9E – to view his vintage radio collection again. This was the high point of last year's meetings and I understand he has a complete “new” Collins S-Line to demonstrate. Since Roger lives close to Minier we can car pool from the Red Cross building. This will save a little gas and hopefully keep some of us from getting lost. He has a lot of the stuff some of us grew up on – Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, Collins, Drake, Heathkit, National, Collins and others. As the coffee mug that Nettie bought me at Dayton a couple of years ago says – “Real Radios Glow in the Dark”.

Officer's Slate

Earla agreed to head a nominating committee. Please let her know what office you are interested in running for or of someone who is interested so that we can have good election. This is a club of, by and for us the members. We will hold the election at Rodger's at the beginning of the session.

Take care everyone. See you Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00pm in the Red Cross on Route 9 East, across from the Fire station. We will leave promptly (car pooling) at 7:00pm and I assume the meeting will start at Rodger's promptly at 7:30.

Thanks

Keith
AC9S

Oct. 2007 CIRC Meeting Minutes

Treasurers' report

\$281.60 checking
\$643.41 savings
\$925.01 total

Accepted Mark AB9MP, Norm N9ZKS

Jim WB9UWA, status on new repeater said "Working" with a round of applause to the anonymous donor. Norm N9ZKS to pickup battery from Floyd W9EX who donated it for use. After charging, Norm to purchase battery post connectors

Regarding the upcoming tower work, group made suggestions how to keep the new antenna's power divider dry.

- radiator hose.
- schedule 10 pvc pipe with cap predrilled to fit hardline.

Also some hand tools were talked about.

Keith AC9S commented on our participation of disaster drill activities how well attending hams performed.

Quick note on dinner meeting scheduled for Thursday, Dec 6th, 5:30 start time. (**Changed to Dec 13th due to room conflict.**)

Gary AB9M gave update on JOTA event, lots of electrical noise S9 or so, they used phase canceller equipment to drop a few S units, still too noisy for digital modes.

Used '94/34 repeater instead of HF being available for reliable communications. Had a handful of scouts express an interest to followup ham studies. Held at the back side of the Interstate center, so power line noise is prevalent.

Old business.

Connie KB9IGT mentioned she received the "Expanding Your Horizons" seminar we did this year from ISU, may plan to do in 2008. Chuck N9RZV added some additional comments.

Earla to head nominating committee, Keith AC9S and Norm N9ZKS to assist for the selection process.

Suggestion to ask Techs if they would like a General class so they can upgrade. Keith & Dan N9NSN have done classes for Tech. More discussion to follow.

Jingle Bell Run leader Sarah Butler felt cellphones would "do" for their communications, so our services weren't requested this year.

Gary AB9M moved to adjourn, Rick WD9HRU 2nd'd

Floyd W9EX has a copy of an audiotape of the S-O-S distress call of the U.S.S. Titanic on April 15, 1912. Port Race, NJ. Came via VK2SAF, a shipboard ham. CQ, general call. Feb 1924, CQD CQ Distress. CQD & SOS, back then, transmitter was a spark-gap variety, popular in that era for hams and commercial uses. John Phillips was the ship's operator sending 25-30 wpm on a straight key before it went down & sent perfectly. It was before the Vibroplex was designed in 1905. Even the usage of a partly auto device. Morse code was

played 3 times, first at the normal speed, then a slower speeds. The opinion of the announcer felt that never again will Morse code be used as it did in such a communication as it was during that era.

Keith's AC9S program is to show how his Steppir antenna. He has 2 neighbors, one ham and one photographer who became part of the ground crew. Brought part of his tram line hardware and images to show how it works.

All the participants felt the tram line plan was the easiest/best plan they have used to install an antenna of this scale on a tower.

Floyd also did a presentation of the Titanic actions

Mark's Tower

Some of the group has been busy during our spell of indian summer. Mark, AB9M spent some time raising a tower at his QTH. And as mentioned at the meeting Kieth has his Stepper-IR up and undergoing performance evaluation during sweeps. From the looks of the weather as I type this, it may be the end of tower work for the year with the exception of emergency repairs.

Below are a couple of pictures of Mark playing Spiderman with Kieth AC9S and Norm N9zks (cameraman) as ground crew.



Central Illinois Radio Club

P.O. Box 993
Bloomington, IL 61702-0993

<http://www.qsl.net/w9aml/>

President: Keith Hanson AC9S
(309) 378-4416

Vice President: Mike Sallee,
KC9FWL

Secretary: Chuck Kostelc N9RZV
(815)-842-4058

Treasurer: Norm Huber N9ZKS
(309) 378-4674

Newsletter Editor: Norman Huber,
n9zks@verizon.net
(309)-378-4674

The CIRC is a not-for-profit ARRL special service club whose purpose is to advance the service of Amateur Radio. Located in Central Illinois, CIRC and its members welcome all to use the 146.94 repeater and to attend club meetings.

Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 10th of the month and may be snail or e-mailed to the editor at:

Norm Huber
19266 US Highway 150
Bloomington, IL 61704-5855

e-mail n9zks@verizon.net

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Nets in the Area

Mon thru Sat	9:00 A.M. CT	14.2475 (HF)	Displaced Peorians
Monday	9:00 P.M.	146.730	123.0 PL Open Net
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.255	(103.5 PL) Woodford County
Tuesday	7:15 P.M.	146.910	Tazwell County ESDA Net
Tuesday	8:30 P.M.	28.450	CIRC Open 10 meter Net
Tuesday	9:00 P.M.	146.940	(103.5 PL) CIRC Open Net
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	147.060	Open Net Has Newslines
Wednesday	9:00 P.M.	442.250	103.5 PL ARES Open Net
Wednesday	Varies	147.100	103.5 PL <i>Sometimes</i> Trader's Net follows ARES Net held on 442.250
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.760	(162.2 PL) Open Net with Newslines
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.850	(103.5 PL) Open Net Peoria
Thursday	9:00 P.M.	146.895	North central IL Traders Net
Sunday	08:15 A.M.	1.815	Open 160 meter AM net
Sunday	7:00 P.M.	146.985	Clinton ARC net (NEW)
Sunday	8:30 P.M.	147.075	Open Net with Newslines

Central Illinois Area Repeaters

Freq	Callsign	Location	PL
145.390	N9EZJ	Lincoln	103.5
146.730	K9HGX	Decatur	123.0
146.790	WD9HRU	Bloomington	
146.850	W9UVI	Peoria	
146.940	W9AML	Bloomington	103.5 CTCSS
146.985	KA9YPK	Clinton	
147.015	NX9M	Normal	88.5 (open*)
147.075	W9UVI	Washington	103.5 CTCSS
147.100	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
147.150	WD9FTV	Bloomington	
147.345	K9ZM	Lincoln	103.5
147.390	WB9DUC	Pontiac	127.3
442.250	WA9RTI	Decatur	103.5
442.700	WB9UUS	Normal	107.2 (open**)
444.350	W9EX	Normal	107.2

* Repeater is currently in open mode with pl for those with QRM

** Repeater RX with tight carrier squelch and loose tone squelch (107.2)

(Please help me keep this list correct. I know it may not be up to date at this time. Norm N9ZKS)

LOCAL DX PACKET CLUSTER INFORMATION

"DX spotting network" - N9PE (Memorial Station) 144.91 MHz - 1200 baud - Connect to N9PE - Contact AB9M or KB9LNS for more info.

Two more pictures of Marks tower work.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Enclosed is a copy of the club application form as a reminder of the fact that most of us need to renew our membership at the first of the year. If you are planning to bring your dues to the dinner, PLEASE put the dues and an application in an envelope and I will process them after the festivities.

Your Tresurer, Norm N9ZKS

